



Conservation Security Program 2005

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

San Ambrosia-Santa Isabel Watershed Fact Sheet

January 2005

Conservation Security Program Overview

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) was authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill to reward farmers and ranchers that are implementing conservation on America's working lands. CSP is a voluntary program based on conservation accomplishments that recognizes the contributions of the best land stewards and encourages them to do more.

Watershed Approach

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is implementing CSP on a watershed basis due to restraints on both program and technical assistance funding in 2005. Focusing on high priority watersheds will allow NRCS to provide quality service to more applicants than if the program was implemented nationwide. Priority watersheds were selected based on the following criteria:

- Wide variety of land uses and input intensities
- High-priority resource issues to be addressed
- History of good land stewardship
- Availability of necessary technical tools
- Availability of NRCS staff to implement CSP

San Ambrosia-Santa Isabel Watershed

CSP is being offered in 202 watersheds across the country – 18 of which were selected in Texas for fiscal year 2005. The total estimated area in the watershed is 1,059,000 acres, of that 1,014,000 acres are in farms and/or ranches. There are an estimated 296 individual farms/ranches in this watershed with an average farm size 3,380 acres. This watershed is located in parts of Maverick, Dimmit, and Webb Counties in Southwest Texas. It is a part of what is commonly referred to as the South Texas Brush Country. The lands uses in this watershed consist of rangeland, dry cropland, irrigated cropland and pastureland.

The map on the following page outlines the general watershed area. Producers in parts of these counties may qualify to participate in the program.

For More Information

For more information about CSP, visit your local USDA Service Center, listed in your local directory under U.S. Department of Agriculture or contact Garry Stephens, Watershed Manager, Pearsall at 830.334.3385. Information is available at <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp>

All CSP applications that meet the minimum soil and water quality criteria will be placed in an enrollment category. The Secretary of Agriculture will select the highest ranking categories to be funded. Check the CSP national page at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp> for information on the final rule.

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